

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-56 and 70-77 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1-21, 31-44, 54, and 70-77 are cancelled. Claims 22, 25, 28-30, 55 and 56 have been rewritten to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

Notification of Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants extend their gratitude to the Examiner for notification that claims 45-53 are allowed, and that claims 22, 25, 28-30 and 55-56 are allowable. The amendments necessary to place the allowable claims into proper form have been made and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. Applicants also note that claims 23, 24, 26 and 27 depend from claims that the Examiner indicated were allowable, and therefore Applicants believe that these claims are allowable as well.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-21, 23-24, 26-27, 31-44, 54 and 70-77 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being rendered obvious by the combination of Bradley (U.S. Pat. No. 4,600,151) in view of Vaznaian *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 4,798,190). The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's combination of these references and the rejections based thereon. Furthermore, Applicants note that the Office Action does not provide support or rationale for rejecting a number of the dependent claims and at least one independent claim. Most notably, no support is provided for rejecting claims 2, 20, 21, 35-44 and 71 (fitment of nozzle between fuel injector and engine), claim 3 (reverse-tapered injector passage), claims 7-13 (backwards-staggered outlets), claims 31-34 (tangential inlets into annular nozzle passages), and claims 71-75 (various different combustion reactants). As such, the Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection of these claims. Regardless, in order to expedite prosecution of the presently identified


allowable claims, the Applicants have cancelled claims 1-21, 31-44, 54 and 70-77, without waiver or prejudice, for further pursuit in a continuation application.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the remaining claims are in condition for allowance, and notification thereof is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that prosecution of the application can be expedited by further discussions with the Applicants' representative, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' representative at the direct dial number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
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